

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

re reply to "A Managing Owner," who wrote to ask if there was any customary rate of demurrage—the result of a collision—for vessels in the Chinese seas, the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* replies:—At the Hongkong Supreme Court, June 30th, 1874, Mr. Justice Snowden, in a collision case and detention for repairs, reviewed the decision of the Court of Admiralty in the *Black Prince* action (Vol. 1, Dr. Lushington's Report), where fourpence per register ton was awarded. Mr. Justice Snowden considered that that per-centage was too small for the Chinese seas. He said that an ordinary rate was sixpence per ton, and he gave the owners of the *Lydia*, a surcharge of 374 tons, \$32 per ton per day, for estimated loss of ten days' employment. There is no binding rule, nor does the scale of demurrage fluctuate with the rise and fall of freight. The *Lydia* received 13s. 2d. per ton per day; but if the apportionment in a precisely similar case had been left to the Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice in London at the present time, the rate would have been about one-fourth.

In the *Peking Gazette* of March 8th we find the following:—Ting-an, the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief for Manchuria, has recently arrived in Moulken and has reviewed ten battalions of the troops known as the Sheng-tzu T'ing. The men kept good order, moved with regularity, and performed their evolutions skillfully. The Krupp field pieces were also handled with ease and rapidity. The Commander-in-Chief considers that with regular drill the force will certainly prove a most valuable body of troops. He has also had the contents of the military chests, the stores of weapons and the horses of the force all inspected and counted. The result has been that the muzzle-loading and breech-loading guns furnished by the Admiralty have been distributed among the three Manchurian provinces; and the muzzle-loading rifles belonging to the force itself have been issued to the men for ordinary use. The Mauser rifles and the ammunition corresponding to them have been placed in store and not made use of, these and the other rifles, and the carbines and revolvers in stock have been counted, and the numbers found to be correct. The cavalry and artillery horses were in good condition and none of them missing. The memorialist has ordered a similar inspection to be made in Kirin and He-lung-shing; the results of which he will report to the Throne as soon as they shall arrive.

THE *Paris Gaulois* has published an article declaring that it has reason to believe that Prince Bismarck in 1880, in conversation with the Comte de Saint Valler, at that time French Ambassador to Germany, proposed an alliance between Germany, Austria, and France, remarking that war between any of these three States had no other result than serving the interests of England and Russia. This alliance was to have been based on the principle that not an inch of Balkan territory should fall into the possession of England or Russia, and that Turkey in Europe should belong to the Austrians, Germans, and French. After declaring that, in order to convince the French Ambassador of his good faith, Prince Bismarck even hinted at the partial restoration to France of Alsace-Lorraine, the article concludes by asking what would happen to-morrow if England and Russia, taking as their cue the wise admonitions of the Imperial Chancellor, were to end by understanding that the sole result of their dispute was to favour Prince Bismarck's game by leaving him entire freedom to exercise a dictatorship.

A CORRESPONDENT of our Foochow contemporary gives the following account of a recent visit he paid to the Governor-General's new College at Canton:—It is situated a little way beyond the suburbs to the northwest of the city, in the midst of rice fields. A beautiful brick wall on a granite foundation 18 feet high encloses a square with one thousand feet frontage east and west, and over eight hundred feet from south to north. A central series of spacious halls, open courts, and side colonnades extend from front to back. The buildings are all of a substantial character, walls of hard brick on granite foundations, and with massive timber-work columns, placed on neatly cut stone bases, supporting the high temple like roofs. The design is very much after the pattern of the Confucian temples found in all large cities. To the east and on the west of these are two other series of fine buildings, with ten suites of rooms in each building. A colonnade and porch in front, with door-ways and broad glass windows opening to each front room; and with open brick-work verandahs in the rear or bed-rooms. Broad open courts separate one series of rooms from the others. Two hundred suites of rooms are provided, intended for one student each—that is, 160 students from Kwang-tung, and 50 from the Kwangai province. Various other buildings for boarding halls, teachers' residences, &c., &c., are all rapidly approaching completion, many of them now under substantial roofs. Marvelous as this itself is, it is the more marvelous when it is remembered that this is only six or eight months ago since the ground was broken for this work. It is encouraging to see such signs of vitality and activity in conservative China. While this work is going on, towards completion at a cost of some \$200,000, we are told by its managers that this is but a part of the Viceroy's scheme for promoting education, and that at Whampoa two other schools are to be opened, one for Science and Mathematics, and one a Polytechnic School. Every lover of progress in China will rejoice to know of these evidences of new life in old China.

"It is not a passion, but a bitter experience, that has made me feel the
 and its appearance is completely foreign to the people of Hong Kong,
 it might have been so different had Hong Kong, in any late time possessed men in the Legislative
 Council, who had an idea in their heads
 further than that of exchanging a bale of Man-
 chester cotton, for a chest of tea, at the highest
 possible profit—whose minds have been too much
 engrossed with the selfish and intellectually low
 ideas of petty traders, and in which the possible
 profits of a case of Hennessy's brandy was more
 in accordance with their 'first-wakings, last
 thoughts, desires and affections,' &c. &c. It is
 now necessary to go into a long argument in
 order that all the Chinese and the European
 Chinese—especially along the waterfronts—
 might easily have been constructed on a large
 airy, and a handsome scale of design,—some-
 what after the fashion of the Peabody buildings
 and other handsome structures lately built at
 home, for very poor people. But these sapient
 legislators of ours do not appear to have had
 either the zeal or the ordinary ability to have their
 filthy city kept clean, as proof of which, take a
 walk along the east end of Queen's Road,—
 native quarter—or along Bonham Stran—
 contiguous thoroughfares, and see what a festering
 condition of filth and degradation the places are
 in. I have the sure and sound idea that highly
 necessary sanitary regulations, and sanitary
 to the decencies of city life, would be
 interference with the advance of trade and
 commerce, a few weak-headed and highly
 incompetent members of the Council have
 permitted what did at one time look like being a
 fine and handsome city, to become little better
 than a great festering sore of native growth,
 ignorantly and contemptibly in the minds of
 some—calling the town a "model colony"
 because, forsooth, men with superior brains to
 the present brandy-selling and adulterated tea-
 buying generation, had laid the original city out in
 a beautiful design, and which their mentally
 unworthy successors have utterly failed to
 maintain. On the great question of the
 an enterprising scheme is on foot for reclaiming
 from the sea, which may or may not enhance the
 beauty and prosperity of the city—it depends so
 much on the style of buildings which are
 constructed on that reclaimed ground—and here
 again the matter of carelessness or incompetence
 of the legislature comes strongly into view. From
 the east end of the military barracks to what is
 known as East Point, there has been constructed,
 at great expense, a very fine water frontage,
 which has been given up apparently to the
 whims of a few con-grege and other business-
 men, which never could have been better
 settled down so close to the eyes and ears of the
 city, while so much available land was to be had
 in a very much more sheltered part of the
 harbour, to wit, Huangsh Bay, and that three
 long miles of coast line stretching from
 Kowloon Point to Sam-shul-pu, beyond the
 Cosmopolitan Docks; affording plenty of room for
 double the amount of trade at present affecting
 "water-frontage" in the colony—and what is of
 far greater importance, giving complete shelter
 from typhoon winds; whereas along the Eastern
 Fringe, it is a dead lee-shore on which no boats can
 find any safety, and the little fleet of fine
 Frigates from the Blue Buildings to East Point
 have been made the most of, there have been
 built along its face accommodation for hundreds
 of European families, in fine terraces,—something
 after the style of the Blue Buildings,—and in such
 manner as the cities on the shores of the Medi-
 terranean Sea have availed themselves of, as
 also many towns in England, such as Brighton,
 Hastings, Southampton, Scarborough,—In fact, Sir, we
 had such public men lately as those who guided
 the interests of this colony in its young days, the
 whole of Queen's Road, from the Sailor's Home
 to Happy Valley, might have presented that fair
 and healthy appearance which it now presents
 enjoys only in the neighbourhood of the
 Hill. Going back to that valuable stretch of level
 ground reaching from the Military barracks to the
 Naval Hospital gate, there is room enough
 there for all the dwelling houses of Europeans
 and respectable Chinamen that may carry on their
 business here for generations to come. Sweet

Sir John Williams de Vaux deserves the cordial thanks of all Europeans in this colony, and will, if I am not greatly mistaken, also receive the commendations of a future generation of Chinese merchants and traders who shall have established themselves and made their fortunes on the island, for the highly necessary and much too long deferred measure of stopping the objectionable tide of Chinese invasion which is now sweeping through the city by a feasible movement, and which, if permitted to continue unchecked, would have converted Hongkong into the filthy and unhealthy condition of a Chinese town. The Governor deserves the more credit for his proposed restrictive measure of him, because he has been so short a time in the colony, and yet he could long enough to see plainly enough that it was quite curbing-bit was not fairly and justly applied, the beauty and healthiness of Hongkong were on the high road to ruin." It says little for the wisdom of the Government of this Colony, and much less for the sense of its members, that they should have taken such a course, and—shall say the honesty of many present members of the Council,—that such a measure was not proposed by some of them even five or six years ago. For it is a question which should have been foreseen in the mind of every individual who had a word to say on the sanitary condition and well-being of this British City. As there are few people in Hongkong who have not made a trip or two to the islands adjacent, and as the Chinese population is increasing rapidly, officers, others, who are permitted to otherwise roam about at all times, and in great numbers, to visit the islands, and especially the islands of Lantau and Ninian, which are the greatest haunts of Hongkong thieves, and has now for some years been the Wall Street of Southern China.

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VIA
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THE Steamship

"BELGIC"

will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on TUESDAY, the 3rd April, at THREE P.M.

Connection will be made at Yokohama with Steamers for Shanghai and Japan Ports.

ALL PARCEL PACKAGES should be marked to address in full; and the same will be received at the Company's Office until FIVE P.M. the day previous to sailing.

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passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or any other port) within one year, will be allowed a discount of 50 per cent. *This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.*

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Ports beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Offices, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 504, Queen's Road Central.

C. D. HARMAN,
General Manager.

Hongkong, 15th March, 1888. [2]
U. S. MAIL LINE.
PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.
THROUGH TO NEW YORK, VIA OVER-
LAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING
AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN
FRANCISCO.

"CITY OF PEKING"
will be despatched for San Francisco, *via* Yokohama, on SATURDAY, May 14th, April, at THREE P.M., taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.
Through Bills of Lading issued for trans-shipment to Yokohama and other Japan Ports to San Francisco, and Atlantic and Indian Cities of the United States, *via* Overland Railways, to Havana, Trinidad, and Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America by the Company's and connecting Steamers.
Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—

To San Francisco.....	\$500.00
To San Francisco.....	\$500.00
available for 6 months.....	130.00
To Liverpool.....	145.00
To London.....	130.00
To other European Ports at proportional rates.	

Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be obtained on application.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking *at San Francisco for China or Japan (or other Asia) within one year will be allowed a discount, to the extent of 50% allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.*

Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until 5 P.M. same day. All Parcel Packages should be marked to suit dress in full; value of same is required.

Consular Invoices, to accompany Cargo destined to Ports beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company Offices in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information, as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company No. 50-A, Queen's Road Central.

C. D. HARMAN,
Agent.

Hongkong, 24th March, 1888

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE.

STEAM FOR
SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUE
PORT SAID, TRIESTE, BRINDISI,
GENOA, ANTWERP, BREMEN AND
HAMBURG, PORTS IN THE
LEVANT, BLACK SEA AND
BALTIC PORTS;
ALSO,
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BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS,
GALVESTON AND SOUTH
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THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL CALL
SOUTHAMPTON TO LAND-PASSENGERS
AND LUGGAGE.

*N.B.—Cargo can be taken on through Bill
of Lading for the greatest place
RUSSIA.*

ON MONDAY, the 10th day of April
1883 at 4 o'clock, the Company's Steamship
"PREUSSEN," Captain O. Public, will MAIL
PASSENGERS' SPECIE, and CARGO, we
leave this Port above, calling at GENOA.
Shipping Orders will be granted till Noon
Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m.
Specie and Parcels until 5 p.m. on the 10th
April 1883. (Parcels are not to be sent
above 40 lbs. weight and the CUSTOMS OFFICE
Contents and Value of Packages are required.)
The Steamer shall, upon a Accommodation
and carries a Doctor and Stewards.
For further particulars, apply to
MILNERS & CO.,
Agents,
Board, 10th March 1883.